

U. S. S. MAZAMA (AE-9)

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AE9/051:rs1
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Ser 150

APR 23 1968

From: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. MAZAMA (AE 9)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09B9)

Subj: Ship's History; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 OP-09B9 SER 4152P09B9 of OCT 66

Encl: (1) Copy of Ship's History

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

(b) (6)

A.H. CUMMINGS /

Chronology of Highlights

1. 20 February- MAZAMA sailed from Newport to Staten Island, New York to commence her overhaul.
2. 5 June- MAZAMA left Brewer Dry Dock Company enroute for Earle, New Jersey to load out.
3. 1 July- Arrived Gitmo for refresher training.
4. 21 July- Departed Gitmo and sailed for Davisville.
5. 25 July- Captain A.H. Cummings relieved Captain D.W. Kiley as Commanding Officer.
6. 14 August- Departed CONUS for seven month Med. cruise.
7. 20 August- Rendered aid to Captain (b) (6) in a 11 foot sailboat crossing the Atlantic from Long Island, New York to Dover, England.
8. 31 August- Inchooped with Sixth Fleet at Rota, Spain.
9. 7 October- Participated in NATO exercise Eager Beaver with Italian, Greek, and Turkish Navies.

Narrative

January 1, 1967 found MAZAMA moored in her home port, Davisville, Rhode Island. She had just returned from West Pac on 21 December, 1966, and her crew was enjoying a well deserved rest. However, all rest periods are short lived, and on 21 January, MAZAMA moved to Newport and moored along-side the tender USS CADMUS. Here began the initial stages of an upkeep and overhaul period that would last for nearly six months.

While in Newport, the crew worked diligently trying to repair the many things that happen to a ship between yard periods. There was much speculation as to where the ship would go for her overhaul, and on February 15, it was learned that Brewer's Dry Dock Company in Staten Island, New York, had won the contract bidding.

MAZAMA sailed from Newport on 20 February and arrived in Staten Island the following day. During the next three and a half months, the sounds of grinding, hammering and welding became common place as the ship's hull and decks were sanded and painted. Major innovations were replacement of the four ship's service diesel generators, and modifications to number three hold enabling MAZAMA to carry hypergolic rockets. The ship had a thorough face lifting, and finally, on June 5, sailed for Earle, New Jersey, to take on ammunition.

After Earle came a one day stop at Yorktown, Virginia, and then back to Davisville for six days before leaving for refresher training at Gitmo. On the morning of 26 June it was underway for Cuba and the most hectic month the crew had encountered in three years.

Arriving at Gitmo on 1 July, training commenced immediately. The three weeks that followed were composed of long, tedious days consisting of hard work and incessant drills. Training was completed on 21 July, and MAZAMA sailed for Davisville.

Captain A.H. Cummings relieved Captain D.W. Kiley as Commanding Officer on 25 July, and after a stop at Earle, New Jersey, MAZAMA once again returned to her home port, arriving on 27 July, ready to commence her pending Mediterranean deployment.

On 14 August, MAZAMA sailed for the Mediterranean. Of interest on the way across the Atlantic was the sighting of a small sail boat on 20 August, captained by (b)(6), a 74 year old mariner, trying to sail from Long Island, New York to England. He took a few provisions and some water, but would accept nothing more. He was eventually rescued by a Polish freighter and returned to New York when his boat capsized in heavy seas.

Inchopping at Rota on August 31, MAZAMA began her tour with the Sixth Fleet. The most significant event in the following four months was her participation in Operation Eager Beaver, a naval exercise with NATO forces from the United States, Italy, Turkey, and Greece. The operation was climaxed by a mock amphibious assault at Saros Bay, Turkey.

MAZAMA rearmed units of two task groups, 60.1 and 60.2, including the aircraft carriers SARATOGA, SHANGRI LA, and F.O. ROOSEVELT. The USS LITTLE ROCK (CLG 4) flag ship for COMSIXTHFLT and USS TOPEKA (CLG 8) were also replenished, as well as 15 different destroyers.

All of the deployment was not work, however, as Sixth Fleet policy allows all ships to spend one-half of their deployment in port. Some of the ports visited were Naples, Italy, Athens, Greece, Malta, Izmir, Turkey, and Barcelona, Spain. New Year's Eve found the MAZAMA anchored in Naples Bay awaiting the new year to continue her service with the Sixth Fleet.

Documentary Annex

1. Photo of Captain A.H. Cummings, Commanding Officer
2. Bio. of Captain Cummings
3. Photo of MAZAMA rearming